

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A motor, comprising:
- a plastic housing;
 - an inboard bearing supported by the plastic housing;
 - a plastic bracket;
 - an outboard bearing supported by the plastic bracket;
 - a stator interposed between the plastic housing and the plastic bracket;
 - a rotor supported by the inboard bearing and the outboard bearing;
 - a metal bearing retainer engaging the inboard bearing such that electrical continuity is established between the rotor and the metal bearing retainer;
 - a bearing retainer fastener that fastens the metal bearing retainer to the plastic housing such that the metal bearing retainer holds the inboard bearing to the plastic housing;
 - a metal ground strap having an attachment end, a terminal end, and a central portion therebetween, wherein the bearing retainer fastener attaches the attachment end to the metal bearing retainer to establish electrical continuity between the rotor and the metal ground strap, and the central portion of the metal ground strap extends between the stator and the plastic housing; and
 - a tie rod that clamps the stator between the plastic housing and the plastic bracket such that the central portion of the ground strap is held in compression between the stator and the plastic housing, whereby the terminal end of the metal ground strap provides a groundable connection to the stator and the rotor, wherein the attachment end and the central portion of the metal ground strap are substantially parallel to each other.

Claims 2 – 8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A motor, comprising:
- a plastic housing;
 - an inboard bearing supported by the plastic housing;
 - a plastic bracket;
 - an outboard bearing supported by the plastic bracket;
 - a stator interposed between the plastic housing and the plastic bracket;
 - a rotor supported by the inboard bearing and the outboard bearing;
 - a metal bearing retainer engaging the inboard bearing such that electrical continuity is established between the rotor and the metal bearing retainer;
 - a bearing retainer fastener that fastens the metal bearing retainer to the plastic housing such that the metal bearing retainer holds the inboard bearing to the plastic housing;
 - a metal ground strap having an attachment end, a terminal end, and a central portion therebetween, wherein the bearing retainer fastener attaches the attachment end to the metal bearing retainer to establish electrical continuity between the rotor and the metal ground strap, and the central portion of the metal ground strap extends between the stator and the plastic housing;
 - a crushable curved section borne by at least one of the plastic housing and the central portion of the metal ground strap; and
 - a tie rod that clamps the stator between the plastic housing and the plastic bracket, wherein the tie rod extends through the central portion of the ground strap such that the crushable curved section is held in compression between the stator and the plastic housing, whereby the terminal end of the metal ground strap provides a groundable connection to the stator and the rotor, wherein the attachment end and the central portion of the metal ground strap are substantially parallel to each other.

Claims 10 – 16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A motor, comprising:
- a plastic housing;
 - an inboard bearing supported by the plastic housing;
 - a plastic bracket;
 - an outboard bearing supported by the plastic bracket;
 - a stator interposed between the plastic housing and the plastic bracket, wherein the plastic housing and the stator define a slot therebetween;
 - a rotor supported by the inboard bearing and the outboard bearing;
 - an impeller attached to the rotor for moving air, wherein the plastic housing defines a discharge outlet for the impeller.
- a metal bearing retainer engaging the inboard bearing such that electrical continuity is established between the rotor and the metal bearing retainer;
- a bearing retainer fastener that fastens the metal bearing retainer to the plastic housing such that the metal bearing retainer holds the inboard bearing to the plastic housing;
- a metal ground strap being an integral extension of the metal bearing retainer, whereby the metal ground strap and the metal bearing retainer are a unitary piece to maintain electrical continuity therebetween; and
- a tie rod that clamps the stator between the plastic housing and the plastic bracket such that a portion of the metal ground strap is held in compression between the stator and the plastic housing, whereby the metal ground strap provides a groundable connection to the stator and the rotor; and
- an airguide that directs the air from the impeller to the plastic housing, wherein the bearing retainer fastener further fastens the airguide to the plastic housing.